

## REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 5, 2007 has been received and considered. In this response, claim 17 has been amended. Support for the amendment may be found in the specification and drawings as originally filed. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections in the present application is respectfully requested based on the following remarks.

### Examiner Interview

Examiner Ray is thanked for the courtesies extended during the interview of April 2-3 with the Applicant's representative.

### Allowability of Claims 1-13, 15 and 16

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indication at page 3 of the Office Action that claims 1-13, 15 and 16 are allowable.

### Obviousness Rejection of Claims 17-19

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kinoshita (U.S. Patent No. 5,113,369) in view of Petty et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0172494). This rejection is hereby respectfully traversed.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite "a selection module configured to selectively couple the select one of the plurality of single bit transmitter/receiver pairs to one of a plurality of connectors based on a select signal." These elements are not disclosed or suggested by the cited references. For example, assuming *arguendo* that FIG. 3 of Kinoshita illustrates a transmitter receiver pair as asserted by the Office Action at page 2, it does not disclose or suggest a selection module configured to selectively couple the transmitter/receiver pair to one of a plurality of connectors based on a select signal. Further, Petty does not remedy the deficiencies of Kinoshita. Accordingly, the cited references, individually and in combination, fail to disclose each and every element of claim 17.

Claims 18-19 depend from claim 17. Accordingly, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest each and every element of claims 18-19, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 17. In addition, claims 18-19 recite additional novel elements.

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejection of claims 17-19 is improper. Withdrawal of this rejection and reconsideration of the claims therefore is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

The Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Applicant believes no additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 23, 2007  
Date